

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 1:32 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Chair
Rep. Jack R. Draxler, House Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Alvin B. Jackson
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Fred C. Cox
Rep. Brad M. Daw
Rep. Sophia M. DiCaro
Rep. Brian M. Greene

Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson
Rep. Dean Sanpei

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Katie LeFevre, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Rep. Draxler explained that the Legislative Management Committee assigned the Government Operations Interim Committee to study public/private partnerships. He requested that committee members email him any suggestions, comments, or concerns on public/private partnerships.

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Nelson, Rep. Oda, and Rep. Sanpei absent for the vote.

2. Voting Equipment in the State

Mr. Bean presented "Voting Machines in Utah." He discussed the history of voting equipment in the state and the impending need for new voting equipment as current voting equipment ages.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, presented the new voting equipment portion of "Lieutenant Governor's Office Presentation." He discussed voting equipment selection and certification. He also identified key considerations for legislators as they address the state's need for voting equipment. Mr. Thomas responded to questions from the committee.

The committee received public comment. Mr. Andrew Riggle, Public Policy Advocate, Disability Law Center, explained that electronic voting machines allow individuals with special needs to vote without assistance.

Mr. James M. Evans, Chair, Utah Republican Party, asked the committee to consider a voting system that would encourage higher voter participation rather than a voting system that only meets some voters' needs.

3. Draft Legislation Regarding Changes to Election Law

Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Thomas jointly presented draft legislation "Amendments to Election Law" (2017FL-0148/004). Mr. Vaughn outlined the draft legislation's technical changes and requested the committee's guidance on changing the filing deadline for the formation of new political parties. Mr. Thomas explained the policy changes in the draft legislation that were requested by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

The committee discussed the draft legislation. Chair Dayton requested that committee members email her questions or comments about the draft legislation.

Rep. Greene discussed the need for accountability in the signature gathering process.

MOTION: Rep. Greene moved to open a committee bill file to study the issue of integrity and honesty in signature gathering and to establish a process by which an individual may remove their signature from a candidate nomination petition. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Daw, and Rep. Sanpei absent for the vote.

4. Election Day Voter Registration Pilot Project

Mr. Thomas presented the Election Day Voter Registration Pilot Project portion of "Lieutenant Governor's Office Presentation." He discussed the creation and history of the pilot project and reported on the results of the pilot project during the 2015 Municipal General Election.

The committee received public comment. Mr. Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, commented on the benefits of the pilot project. He explained that a clerical error sometimes excludes an individual from the list of registered voters, but the pilot project still provides the individual an opportunity to vote.

5. Report from the Commission on Federalism

Rep. Ken Ivory, Chair, Commission on Federalism, distributed "Report from the Commission on Federalism" and showed the federalism curriculum video "Module 1." He discussed the principles of federalism and explained the commission's plans to develop additional video modules for the curriculum on federalism.

6. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Daw, and Rep. Sanpei absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.